

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

<b>Applicant:</b>	Tsutomu Okada	<b>Examiner:</b>	Unassigned
<b>Serial No:</b>	Unassigned	<b>Art Unit:</b>	Unassigned
<b>Filed:</b>	Herewith	<b>Docket:</b>	17376
<b>For:</b>	DIATHERMIC SNARE, MEDICAL INSTRUMENT SYSTEM USING THE SNARE, AND METHOD OF ASSEMBLING THE MEDICAL INSTRUMENT SYSTEM		
		<b>Dated:</b>	January 26, 2004

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, it is requested that the following references, which are also listed on the attached Form PTO-1449, be made of record in the above-identified case.

1. Japanese UM Application KOKAI Publication No. 56-160516, published November 30, 1981;
2. Japanese UM Application KOKOKU Publication No. 6-9623, published March 16, 1994;

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**Dated:** January 26, 2004

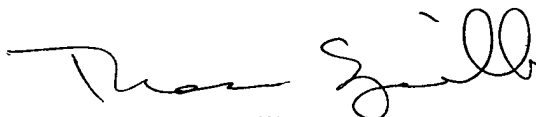
  
Thomas Spinelli

3. Japanese UM Application KOKAI Publication No. 6-75402, published October 25, 1994;
4. Japanese Patent Application KOKAI Publication No. 2001-275933, published October 9, 2001; and
5. Japanese Patent Application KOKAI Publication No. 2002-45369, published February 12, 2002, corresponding to United States Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0053909 A1, published December 20, 2001, issued to Nakada et al.

Applicant is submitting copies of the above-cited Japanese references. U.S. patents are no longer required per the waiver of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(i) in effect as of June 30, 2003. The relevance of the above-identified references has been described in the specification.

Inasmuch as this Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in accordance with the schedule set out in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), no statement or fee is required.

Respectfully submitted,



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Form PTO-1449 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
(REV. 7-80) PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

# **LIST OF PRIOR ART CITED BY APPLICANT**

*(Use several sheets if necessary)*

**Atty. Docket No. (Optional)**

17376

**Application Number**

Unassigned

**Applicant(s)**

Tsutomu Okada

**Filing Date**

Herewith

**Group Art Unit**

Unassigned

## **U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

EXAMINER INITIAL*		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE (if appropriate)
	AA	2001/0053909 A1	12/20/01	Nakada et al.			
	AB						
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						

## **FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
		56-160516	11/30/81	Japan				
		6-9623	3/16/94	Japan				
		6-75402	10/25/94	Japan				
		2001-275933	10/9/01	Japan				
		2002-45369	2/12/02	Japan				

## **OTHER DOCUMENTS** *(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)*


**EXAMINER**

**DATE CONSIDERED**

\* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.